

Message Text

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ACTION ARA-20

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 NIC-01 ACDA-19 AID-20 OMB-01 TRSE-00

CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-07 H-03 INR-11 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-07

PA-04 RSC-01 PRS-01 SP-03 SS-20 USIA-15 DRC-01 SCCT-02

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FM AMEMBASSY BUENOS AIRES

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INFO USCINCSO

C O N F I D E N T I A L BUENOS AIRES 7372

USCINCSO FOR POLAD

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PINT, PINS, AR

SUBJECT: OPPOSITION POLITICAL PARTIES MEET, WILL EXPRESS THEIR
CONCERNS TO GOA

REF BA 7250

1. SUMMARY. OPPOSITION PARTIES HAVE MET TO BEGIN DRAFTING POSITION
PAPER TO PRESENT TO GOVT. IN IT THEY EXPRESS CONCERNS OVER
SUCH ISSUES AS CLOSING OF UNIVERSITY, NEW ANTI-SUBVERSION
LAW, AND WAVE OF VIOLENCE. PARTY REPS MAY MEET WITH MRS
PERON LATER THIS WEEK. END SUMMARY

2. OPPOSITION POLITICAL PARTIES MET OCT 1 IN RICARDO BALBIN'S
OFFICE TO BEGIN PREPARATION OF JOINT ANALYSIS OF NATIONAL
SITUATION WHICH WILL SUBSEQUENTLY PROVIDE BASIS FOR EXCHANGE
OF VIEWS WITH MRS PERON, UCR, PROGRESSIVE DEMOCRATS,
INTRANSIGNETS, REVOLUTIONARY CHRISTIAN PARTY (PRC), POPULAR
SOCIALISTS, COMMUNISTS, UDELPA AND A NUMBER OF OTHER PARTIES
WERE REPRESENTED. HECTOR SANDLER OF UDELPA AND HORACIO SUELDO
OF PRC BOTH CALLED DURING MEETING TO REGRET NECESSITY OF SENDING
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REPS RATHER THAN ATTENDING PERSONALLY. SINCE BOTH ON AAA'S

DEATH LIST, HOWEVER, THEY OBVIOUSLY DECIDED DISCRETION WAS BETTER PART OF VALOR.

3. MEETING SEEMED TO FOCUS ON SAME THREE AREAS OF DISAGREEMENT WITH GOVT REFLECTED IN PAPER PREPARED BY UCR LAST WEEK:

(A) GOVTS HANDLING OF UNIVERSITY SITUATION, (B) NEW ANTI-SUBVERSION LAW AND (C) GOVTS HANDLING OF TERRORIST PROBLEM. INDEED, SEEMS LIKELY THAT UCR PAPER SERVED AS MEETINGS' POINT OF DEPARTURE.

4. A GROWING BODY OF OPINION IN THE UCR HAS BEEN PUSHING PARTY LEADER BALBIN AND OTHER TOP LEADERS TO ARTICULATE WITH GREATER FORCE THEIR DISAGREEMENTS WITH SOME OF THE GOVTS MEASURES. AS ONE UCR CONGRESSMAN PUT IT TO EMBOFF RECENTLY: "PLAYING THE ROLE OF LOYAL OPPOSITION PARTY IS ALL WELL AND GOOD, BUT WHEN THE GOVT BEGINS TO GIVE SECRET SUPPORT TO AN EXTREMIST ORGANIZATION SUCH AS THE AAA, ITS TIME TO PROTEST." MULTIPARTY VEHICLE NOW BEING DEVELOPED MAY GIVE BALBIN BETTER PLATFORM FROM WHICH TO VOICE CONCERN OVER SOME OF DIRECTIONS IN WHICH GOVT SEEMS TO BE MOVING WITHOUT AT SAME TIME PLACING HIMSELF IN VULNERABLE POSITION OF LONE CRITIC.

5. MAJOR THRUST OF OPPOSITION PARTIES' EFFORT IN AREAS NOTED IN PARA TWO SEEMS TO BE ONE OF TRYING TO CONDITION RATHER THAN REVERSE GOVT'S DIRECTION. PARTIES APPEAR TO HAVE LITTLE HOPE OF BRINGING ABOUT OPENING OF UNIVERSITY AT THIS TIME. INDEED, NO MATTER WHAT THEY MAY SAY IN PUBLIC, PRIVATELY MANY UCR LEADERS ADMIT THEY DO NOT WANT TO SEE IT OPEN. THEY DO, HOWEVER, WISH TO SIGNAL THEIR DEEP CONCERN OVER AND THUS TRY TO SLOW DOWN WHAT THEY SEE AS THE TAKEOVER THERE OF THE ULTRA-RIGHT WING OF THE PERONIST MOVEMENT (SEE REFTTEL).

6. LIKEWISE, THE NEW ANTI SUBVERSION LAW GOES INTO FORCE TODAY (OCT 2). BUT THE PARTIES HOPE STILL TO INFLUENCE THE WAY IN WHICH THE GOVT INTERPRETS AND IMPLEMENTS IT. ONE KEY CONCERN TO UCR IS THAT GOVT NOT USE NEW LAW TO SUPPRESS FREEDOM OF PRESS. MINISTER OF INTERIOR ROCAMORA HAS GIVEN ASSURANCES THAT IT WILL NOT BE SO USED. AS OTHER PARTIES ARE AWARE, HOWEVER, THERE ARE ELEMENTS IN GOVT, INCLUDING SOME CABINET MINISTERS, WHO WOULD BE INCLINED TO USE IT EXACTLY FOR THAT.

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7. FINALLY, WHILE URGING GOVT TO TAKE EFFECTIVE MEASURES TO END TERRORISM, PARTIES APPARENTLY INTEND TO URGE IT TO CURB EXTREMES OF RIGHT AS WELL AS LEFT, AND PRIVATELY TO WARN GOVT OF DANGERS POSED BY INVOLVEMENT OF SECURITY FORCES WITH AAA AND OTHER PARAPOLICE UNITS.

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